



NEWS RELEASE

Delaware District Office

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SBA Announces Small Business Week Award Winners

WILMINGTON, DE – The U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Delaware District Office will honor Delaware's outstanding small business owners and champions at the **Delaware Small Business Week Awards Dinner on May 24, 2006, at the Dover Downs Hotel and Conference Center.**

The gala, "Small Business Honors: The American Dream," will begin with reception at 5:00 p.m., followed by the dinner and program at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person or \$500 for a table of 10. It is co-sponsored by the Delaware Economic Development Office.

Dmitar Sijan, president and CEO of Custom Tiling Solutions, Inc. in Dover and Middletown, will be honored as Delaware's 2006 Small Business Person of the Year. Custom Tiling Solutions offers an extensive selection of domestic and imported ceramic tiles; porcelain and glass mosaic tiles; natural stones, such as marble, granite, limestone travertine and slate; custom borders and decorative pieces; murals; granite and marble counter-tops; kitchen & bathroom cabinets; in-floor radiant heating; hardwood floors; all types of floor coverings; and everything else for kitchen & bath.

With two showrooms and design centers in Dover and Middletown, it caters to architects, designers, builders, contractors and home owners. In 2004, Sijan established a second business, Custom Concrete & Masonry, LLC., specializing in glass block walls, brick, stone, pavers, outdoor kitchens, patios, driveways, swimming pool surrounds and fireplaces. Sijan now employs eight full-time employees and works closely with many builders and contractors. As its residential and commercial customer base grew, Custom Tiling's sales increased by 300 percent in the past two years.

"There was definitely a big mixture of feelings," said Sijan in receiving the news of the award. "I was extremely excited and proud about winning, but at the same time I felt deep respect for the people who supported me and contributed to our business success: my wife, my children -my inspiration, our employees, and friends. I also realized that after receiving this award, I now have to set an even higher standard in doing business and serve as a role model by being an even more responsible member of the community."

Charles Gilleen, program manager of supplier diversity for Astra Zeneca Pharmaceuticals and Delaware's 2006 Veteran Small Business Champion, also has been recognized as the regional veteran small business champion in the Mid-Atlantic Region among state winners from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, and was a finalist for the national award. The distinction is a result of his commitment to expanding economic opportunities for veteran-owned small businesses in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Each year SBA's 68 district offices across the country recognize their outstanding state and local small business owners and advocates at local Small Business Week events. The winners then compete with other state winners in their respective regions to determine the 10 regional Champions of Small Business Awards.

In celebration of America's entrepreneurial spirit, the SBA will host Small Business Week 2006, in Washington, D.C., April 12-13. The two-day conference will focus on small business accomplishments, showcasing those businesses recovering from disasters. Four major awards will be presented, culminating with the announcement of the National Small Business Person of the Year and a tribute to small businesses recovering from natural disasters.

During Small Business Week 2006, more than 100 outstanding small business owners, including Sijan and other state small business persons of the year from around the country, will be honored in our Nation's capital. Small business honorees reflect the full range of business products, services and innovations offered by America's entrepreneurs.

For details about the 2006 Delaware Small Business Awards Dinner on May 24, please contact the SBA's Delaware District Office at (302) 573-6294. The 2006 Delaware Small Business Week award winners are:

SBA's 2006 Delaware Small Business Week Award Winners

Small Business Person of the Year

Dmitar Sijan
President / CEO
Custom Tiling Solutions
1474 E. Lebanon Road
Dover, DE 19901
Tel: (302) 698 – 4005
Fax: (302) 698 – 4006

Nominated by: Lynne Schaefer, Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB

Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year

Willard A. Speakman, III
Chairman
Speakman Company
400 Anchor Mill Road
New Castle, DE 19720
Tel: (302) 765 – 0280
Fax: (302) 765 – 0337

Nominated by: J. Phillip Hough, Wilmington Trust Company

Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Co-Winners:

Brannon Paul John
President / Co-Owner
Benjamin Elliot Jones
Vice President / Co-Owner
Kinetic Skateboarding, LLC
3460 Naamans Road
Wilmington, DE 19810
Tel: (302) 477 – 1533
Fax: (302) 477 – 1501

Nominated by: Todd Curry, Wilmington Trust Company

Financial Services Champion of the Year

Vandell Hampton, Jr.
Executive Director
First State Community Loan Fund

100 W. 10th Street, Suite 1005
Wilmington, DE 19801
Tel: (302) 652 – 6774
Fax: (302) 656 – 1272
vhampton@firststateloan.org

Nominated by: Delores A. Lee, First State Community Loan Fund

Home-Based Business Champion of the Year

Sandra M. Winfrey
President / Owner
Cajun Queens Cuisine
1820 Ironmine Road
Felton, DE 19943
Tel: (302) 284 – 2365
Fax: (302) 284 – 3611
cqc@cajunqueenscuisine.com

Nominated by: Caroline E.W. Glackin, Ph.D., Delaware State University

Minority Small Business Champion of the Year

Elena Gomez
Director, Ownership Works Program
West End Neighborhood House, Inc.
710 North Lincoln Street
Wilmington, DE 19805
Tel: (302) 658 – 4171
Fax: (302) 888 – 5314
egomez@westendnh.org

Nominated by: Clinton Tymes, Delaware Small Business Development Center

Small Business Journalist of the Year

Co-Winners:

Dennis Forney
President / Publisher and Co-Owner
Patricia (Trish) Vernon
Editor / Vice President and Co-Owner
Cape Gazette, Ltd.
17585 Nassau Common Blvd.
Lewes, DE 19958
Tel: (302) 645 – 7700
Fax: (302) 645 – 1664

Nominated by: Bill Pfaff, Delaware Small Business Development Center

Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year *

Charles T. Gillean
Program Manager, Supplier Diversity
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals
FOP1 8A1-332

P.O. Box 15437
1800 Concord Pike
Wilmington, DE 19850-5347
Tel: (302) 886 – 1183
Fax: (302) 886 – 2909
charles.gillean@astrazeneca.com

* Also selected as the Mid-Atlantic Region co-winner among nominees from PA, MD, DE, WV, VA and DC.

*Nominated by: Cathy Imburgia, National Association of Women Business Owners
Delaware* –

Women in Business Champion of the Year

Mary E. Maloney
President
Maloney & Company
1140 Red Oak Drive
Calais Woods
Boothwyn, PA 19061
Tel: (610) 558 – 4377
Fax: (610) 558 – 4377
maryemaloney@msn.com

Nominated by: Wilmington Women in Business, Inc. Board of Directors